

**From:** [Delgado, Paige](#)  
**To:** [Thomas, LaWanda](#); [Banipal, Ben](#); [Webster, Susan](#); [Malone, George](#)  
**Cc:** [Peycke, Mark](#); [Potts, Mark](#); [Tidmore, Guy](#); [Barra, Michael](#); [Broyles, Ragan](#); [Petersen, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Legislator: EPA putting Army on notice for Explo's mess  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2013 3:39:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [Paige Delgado.vcf](#)

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Another one.

[http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20131120/NEWS01/311190035/National-Guard-fights-dangerous-explosives-near-Camp-Minden-removed?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20131120/NEWS01/311190035/National-Guard-fights-dangerous-explosives-near-Camp-Minden-removed?nclick_check=1)

## National Guard fights to have dangerous explosives near Camp Minden removed

**BATON ROUGE** — Some of the 18 million pounds of explosive material discovered near Camp Minden could be unstable and a high risk when moved, says the head of the Louisiana State Police division that handles explosives and hazardous materials.

Capt. Allen T. Moss said the bulk of the material is the explosive propellant removed from howitzer shells.

It has a stable lifespan of 2 to 10 years after being removed from shells. Following that period, it becomes unstable and there's no indication of the age of some of the material.

"That why the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) wants to begin (disposing of it in some form) Jan.1," he said "Lives will be in jeopardy" when it becomes unstable, Moss said. "It's a very delicate procedure" to move it.

Maj. General Glenn Cutis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, said he's trying to get the U.S. Army, the source of the material, to help in removing and disposing of the explosives but "the Army has disavowed this and they stiff-armed us."

National Guard Lt. Col. Mike Kazmierzak said Explo Inc. had a U.S Department of Defense contract to "demilitarize" munitions, removing the explosive material. It was to sell it to authorized contractors.

But it "built up over a long period of time, judging from the amount of material," he said. Each unit of the propellant is about an inch long and the diameter of a pencil, Moss said.

A M198 155mm howitzer has an effective range of 18,100 meters or 11.24 miles, so each unit is a strong explosive.

"And we've got bags and bags of it," Moss said after a meeting of the House Homeland Security Committee.

State Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Bossier City, a member of the committee, said the stockpile is the equivalent of "three megatons of TNT in Minden."



A “fluke” inspection of the Explo Systems Inc. site found 10 million pounds of the material stored unsafely, Curtis said Moss said state police doesn’t have authority to inspect the “manufacturing process” but Explo allowed it.

Kazmierzak said the material was moved from the Explo site and “it’s stored properly in bunkers now” at Camp Minden. “The bunkers are designed, should an explosion occur, so that the blast would go up.”

Moss said 120 businesses in the state have magazines that store explosives and state police has been able to inspect half of them. The state has licensed 517 magazines.

The material is now placed in proper containment vessels at Camp Minden and is “as safe as it can be,” he said Explo Systems leased the space from the National Guard to separate and sell the propellant material.

Curtis said it’s possible that the explosives can be sold for demolition purposes.



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**From:** Thomas, LaWanda

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:32 PM

**To:** Banipal, Ben; Webster, Susan; Delgado, Paige; Malone, George

**Cc:** Peycke, Mark; Potts, Mark; Tidmore, Guy; Barra, Michael

**Subject:** FW: Legislator: EPA putting Army on notice for Explo's mess

## **Legislator: EPA putting Army on notice for Explo's mess**

BATON ROUGE, LA (KSLA) -

The Louisiana National Guard is still trying to find a way to dispose of 19 million pounds of military propellant that authorities said had been improperly stored at Camp Minden.

10 million pounds of propellant were found to be improperly stored there by Explo last October. That discovery resulted in a criminal investigation, an evacuation, and a huge effort to secure the material, which now includes another several million pounds of military propellant that was properly stored, but left behind following Explo's bankruptcy.

Executives of Explo Systems Inc. were indicted on felony charges related to the storage of the materials.

Explo was leasing space at Camp Minden, a National Guard installation, with a contract to separate military propellant bags and resell the components.

The state Military Department had planned to use federal money to hire an outside contractor to remove the explosive materials. But those plans got sidelined by the federal government shutdown and continuing

questions about federal funding for agencies.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Curtis told the House homeland security committee Tuesday that the U.S. Department of Defense has ignored Louisiana's requests for assistance to remove the explosive materials.

At the same hearing, legislators learned that the EPA has notified others, not just Explo, that they're responsible for clean up and costs. According to Representative Jeff Thompson from Bossier City, the Department of the Army is being held partly responsible for cleaning up the mess.

"With the EPA involved in sending notices to the Department of the Army, and other potentially responsible parties, we're trying to make sure that the tax payers don't get left footing the bill for a company that was irresponsibly handling the propellant," said Representative Thompson.

Those committee members were also updated on timelines for the removal of the propellant and the legislation proposed to keep this sort of thing from happening again.

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Regards,

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